

Message Text

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PAGE 01 EC BRU 01812 251519Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-08 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00

LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 FAA-00 DOTE-00 DODE-00 /062 W

-----252014 044613 /47

R 251324Z FEB 77

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3115

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 3181

USMISSION GENEVA

USDEL MTN GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION NATO

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: EEC EIND ETRD

SUBJECT: PROPOSED EC COUNCIL DECLARATION ON AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY

REF: (A) 76 EC BRUSSELS 11217 (NOTAL) (B) 75 EC BRUSSELS 8653

1. EC MEMBER STATE REPRESENTATIVES HAVE AGREED ON A DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES FOR A JOINT PROGRAM ON CIVIL AVIATION. THE ECONOMIC QUESTIONS WORKING GROUP IN THE COUNCIL HAS DRAWN UP A PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL RESOLUTION WHICH THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES (COREPER) HAS ALREADY APPROVED AND WHICH THE COUNCIL SHOULD APPROVE ON MARCH 8. THE RESOLUTION CALLS FOR:

-- A COHERENT EC STRATEGY FOR NEW PROGRAMS IN LARGE CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT IN ORDER TO AVOID DUPLICATION OF EFFORT.

-- BEST USE OF ALL EC DESIGN AND AERONAUTIC CONSTRUCTION CAPACITIES INCLUDING THE LARGE SUB-CONTRACTING SECTOR.

-- JOINT ACTION BY EC MANUFACTURERS TO SEARCH FOR A FORMULA FOR
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PAGE 02 EC BRU 01812 251519Z

POSSIBLE COOPERATION WITH THE US IN ORDER TO PROMOTE PENETRATION OF THE WORLD MARKET BY EUROPEAN INDUSTRY.

-- ESTABLISHMENT OF ECONOMIC CRITERIA, E.G., SUFFICIENT NUMBERS OF INITIAL ORDERS OR PROGRAMS, FOR LAUNCHING NEW PROGRAMS.

-- IMPLEMENTATION OF COOPERATION PROCEDURES BETWEEN MANUFACTURERS

AND AIRLINE COMPANIES WITH A VIEW TO DECIDING ON THE KIND OF AIRCRAFT TO BE DEVELOPED.

-- ADOPTION OF ALL POSSIBLE MEASURES TO ENSURE THAT EUROPEAN AIRLINE COMPANIES GIVE A FAIR CHANCE TO COMPETITIVE EUROPEAN AIRCRAFT.

-- THE POOLING OF A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF BASIC RESEARCH.

2. THESE MEASURES ARE SIMILAR TO PROPOSALS WHICH THE ECONOMIC QUESTIONS GROUP (REF A) WAS DISCUSSING IN NOVEMBER, BUT COULD NOT AGREE ON. IMPORTANT CHANGES IN THE PRESENT PROPOSAL INCLUDE:

-- EXPLICIT REFERENCE TO POSSIBLE COOPERATION WITH THE US.
(EC SOURCES UNDERSTOOD THIS TO MEAN COOPERATION WITH THE US ONLY ONCE EC COOPERATION IS ACHIEVED.)

-- DELETION OF THE PROPOSAL THAT COOPERATION BETWEEN EUROPEAN AERONAUTICAL INDUSTRIES SHOULD NOT BE LIMITED TO THE DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION STAGES BUT SHOULD EXTEND FROM THE RESEARCH TO THE MARKETING STAGE.

-- STRENGTHENING THE RECOMMENDATION THAT EUROPEAN AIRLINES GIVE PREFERENCE TO EUROPEAN AIRCRAFT.

-- RECOGNITION ON THE PART OF THE EC THAT THE INITIATIVE FOR EUROPEAN PROJECTS MUST COME, NOT FROM BRUSSELS, BUT FROM THE AIRCRAFT CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY WHICH, TOGETHER WITH THE AIRLINES, WILL DECIDE WHAT TYPE OF PLANE NEEDS TO BE BUILT.
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PAGE 03 EC BRU 01812 251519Z

3. COUNCIL SOURCES TOLD MISSION OFFICER THAT, OF ITSELF, THIS DECLARATION IS OF LITTLE IMPORTANCE. A COUNCIL RESOLUTION HAS NO LEGAL VALUE. THUS, THE DECLARATION IS NOTHING MORE THAN AN EXPRESSION OF INTENT, AND WILL REMAIN SO UNLESS THE COMMISSION IS ABLE TO PUSH THE COUNCIL TO COMMIT MEMBER STATES TO FURTHER ACTION ON THE ACTION PROGRAM FOR THE AERONAUTICAL SECTOR (REF B). WHAT LITTLE ACTION THERE HAS BEEN TO DATE SEEMS TO BE DIRECTLY RELATED TO WELL PUBLICIZED EFFORTS OF EC COMPANIES TO COOPERATE INDIVIDUALLY WITH US FIRMS AND TO THE RECENT REFUSAL OF WESTERN AIRLINES TO BUY AIRBUS. THESE DEVELOPMENTS PERSUADED THE COUNCIL OF THE NEED TO DO SOMETHING TO HIGHLIGHT THE EUROPEAN ASPECT WHILE RECOGNIZING THAT COOPERATION WITH THE US IS NECESSARY ESPECIALLY IF EUROPEANS ARE TO AVOID ANOTHER COMMERCIAL FAILURE SUCH AS AIRBUS.

4. MISSION WILL SEND FULL TEXT OF PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION AND REPORT OF WORKING GROUP TO THE COUNCIL UNDER COVER OF AN AIRGRAM.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AEROSPACE INDUSTRY, ECONOMIC COOPERATION, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), PROPOSALS (BID)
Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ECBRU01812
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770066-1027
Format: TEL
From: EC BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770210/aaaaaisg.tel
Line Count: 115
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 68441fbf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 EC BRUSSELS 11217, 75 EC BRUSSELS 8653
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3231451
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROPOSED EC COUNCIL DECLARATION ON AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY
TAGS: EIND, ETRD, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/68441fbf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009